

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION OCT 10-11

REF: BEIRUT 7939 (DTG 091315Z OCT 76)

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1. SUMMARY. LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN/SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED
CONTINUE AT SHTURA UNDER AL AUSPICES. CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL

EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SHTURA NEGOTIATIONS. VOICE OF PALESTINE SAYS SHTURA NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY FAIL DUE SYRIAN DESIRE IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. SARKIS CONTINUES TAKE FLAK FOR LOW KEY APPROACH. THERE ARE REPORTS AL PEACE FORCE WILL LEAVE LEBANON IF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. POL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT CONDEMNS ISRAELI PIRACY IN LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. GROUND SITUATION STABLE. SHELLING CONTINUES IN SEVERAL AREAS BUT NO GROUND MOVEMENT. TEMPORARY TRUCE HOLDING IN SOUTH BUT MILITARY PREPARATIONS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. SHTURA NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE. LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN/ SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE AT SHTURA OCT 11 UNDER AL AUSPICES. SYRIAN RESPONSE EXPECTED TO EIGHT-POINT LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN PROPOSAL MADE OCT 9. PROPOSAL INCLUDES GENERAL CEASE-FIRE FOLLOWED BY STEP-BY-STEP APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS WITH AL FORCES TAKING POSITION BETWEEN RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIANS AND BETWEEN SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN POSITIONS. APPARENTLY NO DETAILS YET WORKED OUT AGREEMENT APPARENTLY WORKED OUT BETWEEN MODERATE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS, LEAVING OUT KFOUR FRONT AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND REJECTIONIST FRONT WHO MAY TRY TO SABOTAGE ANY AGREEMENT. SYRIANS APPEAR VERY SURPRISED BY LEBANESE/ PALESTINIAN COORDINATION IN MAKING PROPOSAL. L'ORIENT- LE JOUR EDITORIALIZES THAT PROSPECT FOR SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS NOT BRIGHT DUE FACT SYRIANS HAVE NOT RENOUNCED THEIR CALL FOR UNCONDITIONAL PALESTINIAN SURRENDER NOR THEIR DESIRE IMPOSE POLITICAL CONTROLS ON PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS.

3. RIGHTIST RESPONSE TO SHTURA MEETINGS. CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL BOTH EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS CONCERNING SARKIS MOVES AT SHTURA. CHAMOUN APPEARS MIFFED BY WHOLE IDEA OF PAUSE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND ESPECIALLY BY JOINT LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN PROPOSALS TO SYRIA. HE TOLD PRESS HE IS ASTONISHED HE WAS NOT CONSULTED ON COMPOSITION OF LEBANESE DELEGATION AND DEMANDS EXPLANATION FROM SARKIS. AFTER OCT 10 MEETING
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WITH HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI, PIERRE GEMAYEL TOLD PRESS, 56 UNHEEDED CEASE-FIRES SHOW WHAT IS NEEDED IS NOT ANOTHER CEASE-FIRE, BUT A STRIKE FORCE TO APPLY IT. GEMAYEL LIEUTENANT KARIM PAKRADUNI TOLD PRESS SHTURA NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ONLY 20 PERCENT CHANCE OF SUCCESS BUT CHANCE GOES AS HIGH AS 60 PERCENT IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON A STRIKE FORCE. PAKRADUNI SAYS THIS "FORCE OF DISSUASION" SHOULD BE "ARAB TROOPS, MAINLY SYRIANS, UNDER LEBANESE COMMAND." BASHIR GEMAYEL SAID THAT WHILE HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED LEBANESE REPRESENTATION BY RIGHTIST "LEBANESE

FORCES" AT SHTURA, KATAEB PARTY WILL NOT REJECT ANY POSITIVE RESULTS OF SESSIONS.

4. LEFTISTS RESPOND TO SHTURA. VOICE OF PALESTINE EXPRESSES DOUBTS OF SHTURA SUCCESS SAYING SYRIA DESIRES IMPOSE ITS CONDITIONS ON PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS PALESTINIANS PRIVATELY ADMITTING THEY HAVE "LOST THE BATTLE OF LEBANON." MENA REPORTED OCTT 10 ARAFAT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH JUNBLATT IN WHICH ARAFAT SAID SYRIANS AND "ISOLATIONISTS" HAVE DECIDED LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE IN SOUTH. JUNBLATT NOW IN CAIRO AND LOCAL PRESS RUMORS HE WILL GO NEXT TO MOSCOW FOLLOWED BY ROME AND BELGRADE.

5. WARNINGS TO SARKIS. DESPITE HIS EFFORTS AT SHTURA, SARKIS CONTINUES GATHER CRITICISM FOR HIS LOW-KEY APPROACH. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS SARKIS DETRACTORS INCREASINGLY CALLING HIM "THE MAN OF DAMASCUS." MURABITUN VICE-PRESIDENT SAMIR SABBAGH CALLS ON SARKIS TO PLAY A ROLE IN KEEPING WITH "THE SIZE OF THE PLOT AGAINST LEBANON" AND DEMONSTRATE HE IS FREE OF FACTIONAL INFLUENCE. RAYMOND EDDE WARNS SARKIS NOT TO FALL FOR SYRIAN PROMISES WHEN SYRIA'S OBJECTIVE IS TO ANNEX PART OF LEBANON.

6. ARAB LEAGUE FORCES TO PULL OUT? AL PEACE FORCES SEEN LAYING PLANS TO LEAVE LEBANON SOON IF AL COMMAND DEEMS NECESSARY. HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI'S DEADLINE OF 48 HOURS FOR A CEASE-FIRE OR AL PULLOUT AT MUSEUM NOW PASSED. AL-KHULI SAYS AL FORCES WILL FIGHT IF ATTACKED, CONFIDENTIAL
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BUT WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY THEY WILL LEAVE. RADIO AMCHITE SAYS GENERAL GHUNAYM NOW BACK FROM CAIRO, HAS ORDERS PULL OUT AL TROOPS IF FIGHTING DOES NOT END. PHALANGE SPOKESMAN SAYS AL-KHULI HAS RECEIVED ORDERS FROM AL SEC GEN MAHMUD RIAD TO WITHDRAW AL FORCES IF SHTURA TALKS FAIL.

7. PALESTINIANS CONDEMN ISRAELI PIRACY. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, HAND DELIVERED TO EMBASSY LATE OCT 9 AND GIVEN TO PRESS, DESCRIBES OCT 7 INCIDENT IN WHICH TWO ISRAELI PATROL CRAFT INVADED LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND FORCED COASTAL STEAMER INTO PORT OF JUNIEH. VESSEL CARRIED CIVILIAN PASSENGERS OF LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN AND JORDANIAN NATIONALITIES. PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT SAID IT "WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS COWARDLY ACT OF ISRAELI PIRACY REQUIRED IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION." ANNOUNCEMENT CALLED ON ARAB WORLD "TO SHOULDER ITS RESPONSIBILITY" AND UPON "THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN INTER-

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO APPLY INTERNATIONAL LAWS RELEVANT TO THIS ACT WHICH CAN ONLY BE CALLED PIRACY."

8. GROUND SITUATION. IN BEIRUT, RANDOM SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS EAST AND WEST CONTINUES. MUSEUM CROSSPOINT OPENED OCT 10 UNTIL SNIPER ACTIVITY FORCED CLOSING. UNUSUALLY HEAVY CLASHES REPORTED FROM COMMERCIAL CENTER AND SOUTHEAST SUBURBS. IN NORTH, SHELLING ABOVE NORMAL INTENSITY IN TRIPOLI. TRIPOLI PORT SHELLED OCT 10. ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUE IN KAHALE/ALEY AREA BUT NO GROUND ACTION REPORTED. VEHICLES OF SYRIAN FIRST ARMORED DIVISION STATIONED IN SAWFAR/DAHR AL-BAYDAR AREA SINCE JUNE HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE OUT OF AREA. MOVED VEHICLES INCLUDE T-62 TANKS AND TRUCK MOUNTED RL'S. IN SOUTH, 24 HOUR CEASE-FIRE ANNOUNCED AT MID-DAY OCT 10 BETWEEN RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. CEASE-FIRE GENERALLY RESPECTED EXCEPT FOR SYRIAN SHELLING OF VILLAGES BETWEEN MARJAYUN AND JAZZIN. LAA'S AHMAD KHATIB MADE INSPECTION TOUR OF SIDON AND TYRE AREAS OCT 10, ANNOUNCING REINFORCEMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING PORT FORTIFICATIONS. LANE

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